## WHO WE ARE:

In response to the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska, California legislators realized we were no better prepared than they were for a large spill event. To correct that shortcoming, the Legislature passed and Governor Deukmejian signed the Lemper-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act in 1990.

The Act required the California Department of Fish and Game to establish an Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR), which would be the lead State agency for such activities.

A Volunteer Program was created to allow concerned citizens to help save wildlife injured by oil spill events in our state. Volunteers' interests, talents, and skills are matched with wildlife needs and work opportunities at spills. Previous experience with wildlife, while helpful, is not required to volunteer.

## **Volunteers in previous spills:**

- Monterey Bay Bird Incident (Oct. 1997)
  - Over 350 volunteers used
  - Approx. hours = 7,650
- M/V Kure Spill/Eureka (Nov. 1997)
  - Over 300 volunteers used
  - Approx. hours = 8,200
- M/V Stuyvesant spill/Humboldt County (Sept. 1999)
  - Over 500 volunteers used
  - Approx. hours = 9,600
- SS Jacob Luckenbach oil removal project (Nov. 2001-Sept. 2002)
  - Over 400 volunteers used
  - Approx. hours = 12,000
- Ventura Oiled Bird Incident (Jan. 2005)
  - Over 500 volunteers used
  - 160 volunteers on one day

## WHAT WE DO

Volunteers in the OSPR program are people from all walks of life, who want to be good stewards of California and our wildlife. Our volunteers are individuals who come forward to help cleanup efforts after learning of an oil spill from the media or other sources. They are average citizens willing to share their wealth of knowledge and learn how to rehabilitate wildlife that have been injured by spilled oil.

Some volunteers work full time, some a few hours a week or month, or during a particular season or special event. Volunteers perform a wide variety of tasks, such as:

- □ Animal Intake
- □ Animal Food Preparation
- □ Animal Stabilization
- □ Animal Washing
- ☐ Construction or electrical work (building pens, etc.)
- ☐ Clerical and administrative tasks
- ☐ Laundry (oily birds & animals mess up a lot of towels!)

At the DFG Office of Spill Prevention and Response, we strive to ensure that all wildlife exposed to petroleum products in the environment receive the best achievable treatment available. Ultimately, we succeed because of the vigorous efforts of our dedicated oil spill volunteers.







